

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL B. MITCHELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Pastor Paul B. Mitchell, senior Pastor and visionary for Changing Lives Christian Center in the East New York section of Brooklyn, NY.

Pastor Mitchell was born in Kingston, Jamaica and is the sixth of seven sons to his parents Alfred and Myrtle Mitchell. Pastor Mitchell and his family migrated to United States in 1971. He can recall at the very young age of six, his parent's diligence and tireless work effort to provide for him and his brothers. Admiring their work ethic, determination and zeal to make a happy home for the family was the motivation needed to fuel and fulfill the calling on his own life.

Pastor Mitchell served as a successful banker for over fourteen years, working with well-known institutions like JP Morgan Chase, First Card and EAB were fundamental in preparing him to take on the leadership role that he now holds today. On January 1, 2003, Pastor Mitchell was called to serve a new role, as a Pastor.

In addition to his work with his congregation in the East New York section of Brooklyn, Pastor Mitchell is known all over the Tri-State area through radio and TV. Currently, he can be heard on WLIB 1190 AM every Sunday morning and can also be viewed on BCAT Television, Manhattan TV, and on Trinity Broadcasting Network (T.B.N.). Pastor Mitchell ends all of his sermons with this phrase, "if you work the word the word will work for you." Truly the "Change Your Life" Broadcast is changing lives through the taught word of God.

Pastor Mitchell ministers directly to the hurts, issues and challenges that people face in a very practical and relevant way. He believes that the human spirit, which houses the purpose for which we've all been created, must be nurtured naturally and spiritually. He believes that everyone is intrinsically designed with a gift that has the power to propel them into their destiny. The goal of the Changing Lives Christian Center is to meet each person at the point of their need and equip him or her for success, by teaching them how to live successful Christ centered lives. Pastor Mitchell is a man of integrity and uprightness. He's a giver of himself. Most importantly he is a man of God that seeks to honor and obey God in all his ways.

Pastor Mitchell is a loving and devoted husband and friend to his wife Yasmin of fifteen years. He is a gentle, loving and encouraging Pastor to his people. He is a dedicated and loving son to both his parents, Myrtle, 77, and Alfred, 88.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Pastor Paul B. Mitchell for his service as Pastor of the Changing Lives Christian Center in East New York, Brooklyn.

HONORING CAPTAIN FRANCIS
GARY POWERS**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Captain Francis Gary Powers, a loyal, devoted citizen of the United States, who was posthumously awarded the Silver Star last week.

A native of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District, Captain Powers grew up in Pound, Virginia. According to the official award citation, from May 1, 1960 to February 10, 1962, Captain Powers served in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States. While assigned to the Joint U.S. Air Force, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), U-2 Reconnaissance Squadron, Detachment 10-10, Captain Powers was held captive in solitary confinement in the infamous Lubyanka Prison in Moscow after his U-2 aircraft had been shot down by a Soviet surface to air missile.

For almost 107 days, Captain Powers endured interrogations, harassment, and unmentionable hardships on a continuous basis by numerous top Soviet Secret Police interrogating teams. Although greatly weakened physically by the lack of food, denial of sleep and the mental rigors of constant interrogation, Captain Powers steadfastly refused all attempts to give sensitive defense information or be exploited for propaganda purposes. Captain Powers resisted all Soviet efforts through cajolery, trickery, and threats of death to obtain the information they sought.

Captain Powers was subjected to a trial and was sentenced to an additional 542 days of captivity in Vladimir Prison before finally being released to the United States in 1962. As a result of his unconquerable spirit, exceptional loyalty, and continuous heroic actions, Russian intelligence gained no vital information from him.

For his sustained courage in an exceptionally hostile environment, Captain Powers was publicly recognized by the Director of the CIA and the Senate Armed Services Committee. By his gallantry and devotion to duty in the dedication of his service to his country, Captain Powers has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

It is with great admiration, respect, and appreciation that I stand before you to honor such a courageous American. I know I speak for so many when I say, we're proud of our native son, Captain Francis Gary Powers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 383 on agreeing to the DeFazio Amendment to H.R. 2578. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING CAMELOT ELEMEN-
TARY FOR BEING NAMED A
GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Camelot Elementary School, in Auburn, Washington, for being named a Green Ribbon School. This honor, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, is given to schools participating in activities to promote and encourage a healthy and environmentally sustainable learning environment.

Students and staff at Camelot Elementary have taken a wide variety of steps toward reducing energy consumption. Since 2007, the school has reduced energy usage by 50 percent. They replaced light bulbs, removed personal appliances, and placed reminders on light switches and computers. Teachers and students use green checklists in every classroom to remind each other about ways to decrease energy consumption and waste.

To address the threatened salmon population in Washington State, students raised salmon in classrooms to release into local streams. Students also published a newspaper with information and resources about conservation. To decrease the use of plastic bottles, the school organized a fundraiser for reusable water bottles.

In addition to becoming good stewards of the Earth, staff, students, and parents are taking steps to improve health and nutrition. The school raised money from the community to build a community garden on the school grounds and the school follows the United States Department of Agriculture standards to make sure students have balanced meals. Nearly 60 percent of the student body walks or bikes to school. On the weekends, the school and the Parent-Teacher Association send backpacks filled with healthy foods home with disadvantaged students.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the students, staff, and parents from Camelot Elementary. The steps they are taking to reduce energy consumption, improve nutrition, and protect our environment and resources will continue to benefit our community for many years to come. I hope many other schools follow Camelot Elementary's example.

A TRIBUTE TO LEROY SAWYER**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Mr. Leroy Sawyer, a man who has spent much of his life working for the public good.

Mr. Leroy Sawyer was born to William and Georgina Sawyer. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School with a Science Major, a Math Minor Diploma, and lettering in baseball.

Mr. Sawyer rose quickly as a member of the New York City Police Department. Though not graduating from the Academy he was placed in "plainclothes" and promoted to Detective